

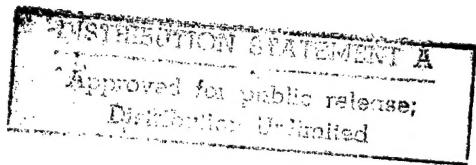
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REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

- USSR -

By Ye. A. Morovin



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Regular Session of the International Council
of Social Sciences

[This is a translation of an article written by
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page 87.]

The regular session of the International Council of Social Sciences (MSSN) was held in Paris from 19 through 25 March under the chairmanship of D. Young (United States).

The session heard a report from the general secretary of the council, K. Levi-Strauss, and elected a new executive committee. It included delegates from the United States, the USSR, Britain, Holland, Sweden, Italy, and India. Also, the membership of the International Council of Social Science was increased by means of a representative of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

T.Kh. Marshall, director of the Department of Social Sciences, UNESCO, reported that UNESCO had allocated the council additional funds for work on problems associated with the social consequences of industrialization, and a study of the conditions affecting labor productivity. As the delegate from the USSR, I made certain critical comments with respect to the MSSN in my speech, pointing to the necessity for greater concentration of resources on studies of great social importance (e.g., combatting racism, strengthening the rights of man, etc.) and on the desirability of better liaison between the council and scientific organizations of the USSR.

The delegates at the session exchanged views as to what scientific problems should be scheduled for coordinated treatment by scholars from various countries. However, no program for such studies was adopted, and its preparation was entrusted to the executive committee of the council, whose next session will be held in the spring of 1960.

A round table conference on the social consequences of technical progress was held simultaneously with the session of the council.

The conference heard several scientific papers. Some of the speakers -- e.g., V. Vito, professor at the Catholic University in Milan -- tried to give a negative evaluation to the social consequences of industrialization. In their opinion, industrialization weakens family life, engenders dissatisfaction, disrupts the traditional way of life of persons acutely sensitive to their inadaptability to the new conditions, etc. Certain speakers even put forth suggestions for limiting education, and making it more narrowly specialized in accordance with purely local requirements.

In his paper, V. Moore (United States) tried to establish general laws governing the consequences of industrialization without regard for the peculiarities of the social system and the level of economic development of different countries.

G. Balandier (France) viewed the problem optimistically. In contradistinction to Vito, he expressed the opinion that in the final analysis industrialization strengthens the family and deepens traditional ties.

In a paper read in his absence, the Polish scholar Ja. Szczepanski analyzed the change in the class structure of Poland as a result of its industrialization.

In his comments on the papers, the Soviet representative told of the significance attributed in the USSR -- in particular, in the Seven-Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy for 1959-1965 -- to technical progress and the reform of higher and secondary education in our country. The representative of the USSR emphasized the necessity of a differentiated approach to the study of the consequences of technical progress and industrialization in the socialist state and the capitalist countries.

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